



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Warning Systems

Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program

A siren means action. It may be for first responders heading to an emergency or for citizens to protect themselves. Do you know how you would hear about a chemical release in your community? Will you know what to do when a siren or other warning system sounds? Are you Ready and Set to Act?

Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) officials would use many ways to alert you to an accident involving chemical warfare agent – outdoor warning sirens, tone alert radios/indoor alert systems, radio and television. Some communities use additional systems, such as electronic message boards on highways and loud speakers from buildings or roving police cars. Regardless of how you are alerted, it is important to hear the warning system, listen to the message and follow the instructions given.

Sirens

- Sirens are an outdoor warning system. You may hear the sirens if you are inside, but they are designed to alert people who are outside. The sirens can be activated for any type of emergency.
- CSEPP sirens provide both a warning tone and a pre-recorded or live message about the emergency.
- Sirens are placed throughout the community. They are on top of tall poles (like telephone poles) and look like thick disks stacked on top of each other. Or they may look like megaphones stacked together. Please edit description to reflect appearance of sirens in your community.
- Sirens are tested monthly – the first Wednesday of every month. During the monthly test, sirens play Westminster Chimes. Please edit to reflect

monthly test schedule and siren test tone in your community.

- If a chemical stockpile accident happens at the Army post in your community, you will hear a “whoop, whoop” tone and a voice telling you to take protective actions or to go inside and listen to an Emergency Alert System (EAS) broadcast station for more information.

Tone Alert Radios or Indoor Alert Systems

- CSEPP has provided Tone Alert Radios (TARs) or Indoor Alert Systems (IASs) for the homes and businesses closest to the Army post.
- Community emergency officials can activate these indoor alert and notification devices quickly to warn you of any type of emergency, including bad weather.
- TARs or IASs will give you the same information as the EAS message that you will hear on your local radio station or television.
- Emergency messages will be repeated on your TAR or IAS every 12-20 minutes.
- If you are told to shelter in place, take your TAR or IAS into your shelter room. Listening to a TAR or IAS will keep you informed about the emergency and let you know when to leave your shelter room. Edit if TAR/IAS should not or cannot be moved.

Emergency Alert System

- Emergency officials use the EAS to alert you to potential dangers in your community and to provide you with specific information regarding what you should do to remain safe.
- You may have heard an EAS message during a storm or for an Amber Alert.

For more information,
contact the CMA Public
Affairs Office at
(410) 436-3629
(800) 488-0648



Warning Systems (continued)

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- If you do not know which broadcast stations in your community are EAS stations, call the number at the bottom of this page.
- If you are told to shelter in place, take a battery-operated radio into your shelter room. Listening to an EAS station will keep you informed about the emergency and let you know when to leave your shelter room.

Route Alerting

- Route alerting involves using loud speakers in shopping centers or on moving vehicles, particularly in areas not equipped with outdoor sirens and indoor tone alert radios.